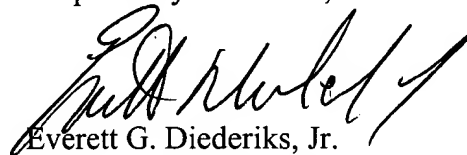


**REMARKS**

\ In order to further the prosecution of the present application based on the favorable statements made by the Examiner on the Interview Summary Record dated July 8, 2004 concerning amending the claims as set forth above being sufficient to overcome the previously applied prior art, this RCE and Preliminary Amendment are being submitted in this case. Following entry of this Preliminary Amendment, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that these changes should clearly place the application in clear condition for allowance such that allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of this application, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.  
Associate Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 33,323

Date: August 6, 2004  
DIEDERIKS & WHITELOW, PLC  
12471 Dillingham Square, #301  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
Tel: (703) 583-8300  
Fax: (703) 583-8301